The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of events of interest labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other features of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1323 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1936 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 26, NO. 34

Deadly poisons are often concealed under sweet honey.—Ovid.

Green Asks Amnesty for Workers Imprisoned by Cuban Government

A. F. of L. President Tells Cuban Ambassador Such Action Would Create "Favorable Impression Upon the Minds of the Working People and All Their Friends in the United States."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—In a communication to Senor Dr. Guillermo Pattson y de Jauregui, Cuban Ambassador to the United States, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor urged amnesty for a large number of workers connected with the Cuban labor movement who are serving terms in jail for the alleged commission of offenses growing out of their activities for organized labor and Cuban workers generally.

"The American Federation of Labor," Mr. Green's letter said, "has always manifested a lively interest in the general welfare of the people of Cuba. We are firmly convinced that the interests of all the people of the Republic of Cuba can be best promoted through recognition and protection of the rights of the working people who constitute a substantial percentage of the people of Cuba.

"For these special reasons I am taking the liberty of writing you in behalf of the movement launched in Cuba designed to extend amnesty to a large number of working people who were identified with the organized labor movement in Cuba and who are now prisoners. These representatives of organized labor were charged with the commission of various offenses.

"Because I have had a wide opportunity to appraise the sentiment of the working people of the United States, I can truthfully say that they feel a great injustice has been imposed upon these representatives of organized workers in Cuba. I know there would be most favorable reaction among the masses of the people of the United States to the enactment of amnesty legislation in behalf for the release of these prisoners to whom I have referred by Executive Order. Such action would create a most profound and favorable impression upon the minds of the working people and all their friends in the United States.

"In behalf of the American Federation of Labor and as the spokesman for its millions of officers and members, I urgently request those in charge of the administration of the government in Cuba, through you, to grant amnesty to all those who are serving prison terms for the alleged commission of offenses growing out of their activities in behalf of organized labor and of the workers of the Republic."

IRISH UNIONS DEMAND PUBLIC WORKS FOR IDLE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The recent session of the Irish Trades Union Congress, in Waterford, Tralee, Irish Free State, considered numerous matters affecting the welfare of Irish workers, with the very vital subject of unemployment occupying the most important place.

One resolution adopted called upon the government to set up a ministry to provide extensive work schemes. Another urged the workers to support trade unionism as a measure to secure control of industry for their own benefit.

The discussion revealed that the delegates favored afforestation, widening and improving roads, major drainage, and the provision of public parks and swimming pools as the best projects to provide work for the unemployed.

The Congress also urged that rates of maintenance of the unemployed should be increased immediately.

Another interesting resolution adopted protested against the granting of monopolies in various industries to certain firms and urged that this policy should not be carried on any further by the government. It was brought out that in previous industrial gifts were being paid as low as seven shillings a week.

A resolution was adopted calling upon the Irish Free State government to provide a 40-hour work week for all operatives.

Miss H. Moloney, of the Irish Women Workers' Union, was elected as the new president of the Congress.

UNION HEAD HITS PRISON PHOTO-ENGRAVING SHOPS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Renewed opposition to the maintenance of photo-engraving shops in prisons was expressed by President Edward J. Volz of the International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America in his annual report to the convention of the union in New York City. The union has opposed the practice for a number of years on the ground that the training of criminals in the photo-engraver's craft acts as a spur to counterfeiting.

MISS PERKINS STUDIES GENEVA LABOR OFFICE

Seeks Methods for Less Expensive and More Efficient Factory Inspection.

Geneva, Switzerland (AFLNS).—The United States wishes to profit by the experience of other nations and through the extensive work of the International Labor Office, according to Frances E. Perkins, U. S. Secretary of Labor, who came here from Paris to study possibilities first hand.

Miss Perkins stated she wished to "further the cooperation of the United States with the International Labor Organization" and to learn how the very valuable experience of the I. L. O. is operate in drafting and administering labor law, in research and in drawing on and profiting by the experience of other countries. She expressed particular interest in the forthcoming conference on the 40-hour work week in the textile industry.

"On social security," she said, "the I. L. O. has given us already a great deal of service, and I want to find out what else there is that it could help us in."

She specifically mentioned factory inspection, pointing out that it was very expensive and that Americans were always looking for methods of "getting out sound inspection with short cuts, "perhaps by the participation of workers in the inspection or perhaps by more employer participation" and by self-certified payrolls.

"It will probably be impossible to do this for wages and hours," she declared, but added that "it might be possible for wages, for it has been done in some Scandinavian countries and in France."

Miss Perkins ran into an unusual "strike" during her Geneva visit, which aroused her interest. Most of the city's cafes and stores were closed from 1 until 5 o'clock, while "striking" owners paraded in protest against "exaggerated rents."

12,722 SINGLE HOMELESS MEN GET WORK IN CANADA

Ottawa, Canada (AFLNS).—The Department of Labor has disclosed that 12,722 single homeless men, formerly among the 21,000 in relief camps, have been placed in jobs. Of these, 10,000 throughout the Dominion were given jobs on the government National Lines and the Canadian Pacific Railways. No regular employees of the railways were displaced, as the needed young men were placed on maintenance of way, for which the lining of all lines is being contemplated. For this work the men are paid $2.50 a day. Others have been placed on farms and in factories.

Relief camps throughout the Dominion were discontinued this fall when Parliament appropriated $3,000,000 as a contribution to the railways to induce them to absorb about half the inmates of the camps, which had cost the government $22,000,000 since their establishment, an average of about $62.50 per man per month in camps. In the creation of new work, it is reported the railways were also taken on about 2,000 more workers who had not been in the camps.

Delegate to Hotel Employes' Convention Killed, Two Shot; Gunman Hid Among Autos

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Rochester, N. Y.—Violence, resulting in the killing of one delegate and the wounding of two others, during the convention here of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance and the Bartenders' International League of America, contrary to reports appearing in sections of the daily press, had no connection with the convention, President Edward Flore stated.

"The shooting was not the result of the convention," he said. "It is a New York City feud. Nothing has happened here which would have caused it."

Harry S. Koenig, 44, of New York City, died in a hospital, with three bullet wounds in his head. Fellow delegates volunteered blood transfusions, which proved of no avail. Jack Gold, 47, of Cleveland, was shot in the chest and arm, and Benjamin Paul, 34, of Philadelphia, was shot in the leg. Both were delegates to the convention. Mrs. Jennie Graf, of Rochester, who happened to be passing by, was shot in the leg.

Police learned from witnesses that a man stepped from behind two parked cars and began firing as Koenig and the other two men left a restaurant. The gunman is said to have escaped in a waiting automobile. He had reported to have been later abandoned.

"There are no local tie-ups," Detective Captain Andrews said, "so far as we can find. This goes to New York City and we hope an investigation there will turn up something."

60,000 Texans Are on Old-Age Pension List; Total Will Number Nearly 120,000

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Austin, Texas.—The salutary benefits of pensions for the indigent aged and the number of people who come under the old-age pension system are strikingly revealed in the report by Orville S. Carpenter, director of Old Age Assistance Commission, which administers the old-age pension law recently enacted by the Texas legislature.

The payments from the pension funds are so large that a special legislative session may be necessary to provide the additional money necessary to meet the state's obligation to the from a great number of pensioners, Carpenter said.

He estimated that $925,000 would be distributed in August to about 60,000 pensioners and that $1,100,000 would remain in the Treasury after the payments. State funds for pensions in July and August were augmented with a Federal grant of $1,181,000. Liquor taxes, which go to the pension funds, are running about $200,000 a month and in September they will total about $500,000. "They will help a lot," Carpenter said, "but they won't solve the problem. We will get along all right until January, but then we will need more money."

Pointing out that 60,000 pensioners were approved from the first 95,000 applications investigated, Carpenter added that more than 100,000 applications remain to be studied. He believed the percentage of the initial group would not continue through all the applications, as the first 40,000 were taken largely from relief rolls. Before direct State and Federal relief was discontinued, the aged, blind, dependent children and other types of aid, the Relief Commission had 81,000 on its rolls more than 60 months old.

Although not having specific information as to how many on relief rolls had not been approved for pensions, Carpenter said his office had "been relieved from pressure by county officials who during July were demanding action," indicating that local relief allotments had been improved.

"If those on relief have been taken care of," he explained, "it is reasonable that the percentage of the remaining applications found eligible will be much smaller. I think the total will be less than 120,000."

VOLZ CONDEMNS C. I. O. RULE-OR-RUIN POLICY

Photo-Engravers' President Declares Fundamental Principle Of American Federation of Labor Is Majority Rule.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—Strong condemnation of the policy of the Committee for Industrial Organization in opposing the decision of the majority in American Federation of Labor conventions and attempting to establish minority rule characterized the annual report of Edward J. Volz, president of the International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America, to the convention of the union held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here.

Denouncing the C. I. O. for seeking to assume functions delegates to the A. F. of L. Executive Council at the Atlantic City convention of the Federation last October, Mr. Volz declared:

"This usurpation of power and carrying on of activities contrary to the adopted policy of the Federation by a minority group cannot be condoned if the Federation, as such, is to continue to exist.

"The first requisite of any organization worthy of the name must be the acceptance and unswerving obedience of majority decisions, by all its affiliates, in all instances where such decisions are recognized as adequate and binding. Any other course or policy would be weakening and disruptive.

"In the C. I. O.'s scheme for organizing the steel industry, Mr. Volz saw concrete evidence of a determination to "rule or ruin." The Photo-Engravers' Union, he said, had been asked to supply the American Federation of Labor with a minimum of $25,000 for its share of the steel campaign, but this offer was canceled when the Committee for Industrial Organization obtained the consent of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers not to have the drive controlled by the C. I. O.

"This arbitrary action of the C. I. O. who apparently insist upon rule-or-accordance with their own policy—or ruin, led to withdrawal from the organizing campaign by all unions, except those in affiliation with the C. I. O.," Mr. Volz said.

MACHINERY USED TO CUT LABOR COST ON WPA JOBS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

St. Louis, Mo.—A new wrinkle in "neutralizing the prevailing wage scale required for WPA workers is being foisted upon those unemployed on jobs the WPA was planned to benefit most, according to information that recently came to light here.

Heavy machinery is now being used on WPA construction jobs in and near St. Louis to do work formerly done entirely by hand labor. Steam shovels are being used in place of digging drainage ditches and grading machines are used for improvement of "farm-to-market" roads.

Acting WPA Administrator Favreau explains that machinery is used to cut construction costs under revised "prevailing rate" wage scales and to prove that a given job is "worth so much" to the government.

Institution of the prevailing rate increased former hourly rates for WPA workers by fewer hours of work necessary to earn the limited "security wage," which in St. Louis County is a month for unskilled labor, $60 for intermediate, $70 for skilled and $80 for professional and technical employes.

While Favreau claims that the use of machinery will not cause the dismissal of any workers at this time, many believe it will hasten completion of available projects which were developed solely to provide relief work.

RAIL PASSENGER'S RIGHT TO SEAT GETS INTO COURT

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—The outcome of a suit against the New York Central Railroad by Philip Davis, lawyer, in the Ninth District Municipal Court here was awaited with interest because of a peculiar angle that affects many people, particularly suburban workers who ride trains to and from the city.

Davis sued for $47.80, of which $2.80 was for the fare from Albany to New York and $45 for "physical discomfort and mental anguish" because he had to stand up. During the trial of the suit an attorney for the company testified that because Mr. Davis had bought with a coach ticket has the right to sit in a Pullman car without paying extra fare if there are no seats left in the coaches.

Section 54 of the state railroad law provides that the carrier "must provide sufficient accommodation for passengers and a decision by a judge trying a similar case in 1866 was cited to prove that a passenger who "suffers no accommodation" really means "a vacant seat!"

Congressman Boland Plans Anthracite Coal Measure

Scranton, Pa. (AFLNS).—A measure similar to the new Guffey coal control bill, which would cover the anthracite coal industry, will be introduced in the next Congress, following Congressman P. J. Boland is re-elected. A vote on the Guffey bill during the last session of Congress was prevented by a filibuster against the measure conducted by Senator Carter Glass, Virginia just before the session closed.

A proposed measure, which would cover the marketing of anthracite coal, has been agreed upon, Representative Boland says, following a conference between himself and U. S. Senator Joseph F. Guffey. The measure, upon which competent authorities believe will result from the Guffey bill coverage, the bituminous industry, is expected to have prompted the proposal of a similar measure for the anthracite industry.

British Rail Workers Get Part of Pay Cut Restored

London, Eng. (AFLNS).—The organized railway workers of Great Britain have won a partial victory in their drive for a restoration of the remaining 2½ per cent of the 5 per cent wages reduction imposed on them in 1931. The men secured the restoration of 2½ per cent in 1935, but the national tribunal to which their claim for wiping out the rest of the 2½ per cent was referred decided to grant only 2½ per cent.

The decision goes into effect August 16, affecting 400,000 railway employes.

Prevailing Wage Rate Adds $3,500,000 To Pay of 7,000 New York WPA Workers

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The long and successful fight of the American Federation of Labor for the payment of prevailing wage rates on public relief projects, which was finally incorporated in the present Federal unemployment relief appropriation act, continues to bring blessings to those on relief and protection for those who have jobs and wish to maintain a decent standard of wages in private employment.

This is emphasized by the order of Lieut. Col. B. B. Somervell, New York City Works Progress Administrator, establishing a revised salary scale for 7,000 engineers and technical workers on WPA projects, bringing their level of payment up to the approximate "prevailing rate." The revised rate will mean about $500 more a year for these skilled and technical employes, and will add approximately $3,500,000 to the WPA payroll in the nation's metropolis.

In arriving at the prevailing rate, the Administrator took into consideration the rates fixed by the U. S. Civil Service Commission, as well as the suggestions of engineering societies and the amounts being paid by contractors on private work. The new rates for engineering employes, other than executive and supervisory, run from $1,440 for surveyors' rodmen to $2,600 for assistant supervising engineers.

Coal Industry Nationalization Placed Before British Trades Union Congress

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The forthcoming British Trades Union Congress and the annual conference of the British Labour Party will both receive proposals for adoption of plans to transfer the British coal industry to public ownership. The proposed plan is set forth in a pamphlet just issued by the National Council of Labour.

British Coal Corporation, working solely in the public interest, would be responsible under the plan for the proper direction of the ownership of the coal industry and for securing its efficient management. The Corporation would be appointed by the Minister of Mines and would include representatives of workers in the industry.

Compensation to present owners, it is held, must depend on the general circumstances prevailing at the time. "The basis of compensation would be the reasonable net maintainable revenue of the undertakings concerned." It is stated. "The form of compensation might be that of terminable annuities, or redeemable stock. But whatever form, suitable arrangements should be made for amortization, so that the final liability would be a comparatively a term of years." Marketing would be in the hands of one marketing board.

Was laid down that a proper level of wages must be fixed by agreement for the operation of the industry, and that must be determined between the employer organizations and the corporation.

Much depends on the technical and in aspects of the industry, would the hands of organizations under the Corporation.

s pointed out that trade union ion should be twofold in character: first, in relation to the general ct of the industry and, secondly, r medium for arranging the wages general terms of employment of labo

Low-Cost Homes for 6,500 Families Planned By Big WPA Housing Project in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The new Tom Eyck Houses, a slum-clearance project in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, N. Y., which will eliminate 26 acres of congested slums and provide modern dwellings for over 6,500 families, will cost $7,556,400. The Public Works Administration has accepted a bid of this amount from Starrett Bros. & Eken, Inc.

This is the largest single project in the WPA program and is one of two now under way in the New York City area. The Harlem River Houses project in Harlem will provide 575 dwellings, at a cost of $4,700,000.

Each unit, although economically planned, will be provided with modern equipment, with facilities for ample air and sunlight. The buildings will be surrounded by a park-like development, which will provide play and recreational space for tenants.

New Youth Administration Rule Requires Work From All Students Receiving Aid

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The National Youth Administration has promulgated new regulations by which students will be required to work at least part time. An allotment of $70,000,000 has been made available for the NYA.

It is stated that 125,164 students have been aided heretofore and of this number but about 12 per cent had not done any part-time work, as several thousand high school students had been granted $6 monthly merely for good marks in their studies.

Hereafter, all high school students employed must be members of relief families, and must work at least three-fourths of the subjects studied will be required of high school and elementary school students getting aid.

Payments are based on the "prevailing wages" for work performed. The amount is limited to $6 a month for high school students, $15 for college students and $35 for graduate students.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY PLANNED FOR HAWAII SUGAR MILLS

Honolulu, Hawaii.—Recurrent labor unrest among sugar plantation workers, who have expressed determination to get a fair share of huge earnings by plantation owners, is believed to have had a salutary effect upon the generosity of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, which has recommended the establishment of the eight-hour work day on all Hawaiian plantation sugar mills, effective as of January 1, 1937.

About 11,000 workers would be affected if the plan is finally adopted. Besides the shorter work day, the workers would be paid "overtime" in case of emergency requiring more than eight hours work per day. It is reported that the Association plans to extend the plan to cover employes in sugar plantations, shops and pumping stations, who are not paid on a monthly basis.

Last year, in the face of menacing unrest among the workers, Association members set up a bonus system for plantation workers which is based upon the monthly price of sugar in New York.

C. F. SCOTT, SECRETARY OF BOILER MAKERS, DIES

Kansas City, Kans. (AFLNS).—Charles F. Scott, secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America, died suddenly here on August 19. He served as secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood from 1926 to his death.

White Collar WPA Workers Ask Prevailing Wage Rate

Harrisburg, Pa. (AFLNS).—A group of "white collar" WPA workers in two of the counties of this state filed a formal complaint with WPA Labor Relations Director Stoll against a cut in pay from $94 to $85 and $71.50 per month, brought about, they said, by a shift from a regular monthly salary to a hourly rate, which is less than the "prevailing rate" of wages.

John J. A. Phillips, president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, was one of the spokesmen for the group of 50, including representatives from the American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Musicians and a Philadelphia tenants' association.

Co-operative Bakery Plan Backed by Memphis Unions

Memphis, Tenn. (AFLNS).—The Memphis Trades and Labor Council has given 100 per cent endorsement to the plan for a co-operative bakery here, so that Memphians and members of organized labor generally can buy union-made bread from union men.

The proposed bakery is an offshoot from the bakery strike now in progress in Memphis in which many bakers have been thrown out of work. Stock will be sold to union men and their friends, and it is believed that the project will be a big success now that Memphis organized labor is back of it.

SAFER WORK CONDITIONS SOUGHT BY WORLD MINERS

Delegates to Prague Convention Urge International Labor Office to Prepare Code Covering All Countries.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The International Miners' Federation concluded its highly interesting convention at Prague, Czechoslovakia, with resolution of safety in mines and occupational diseases of miners. Many other subjects of distinct importance to the world's mining industry and to miners were also given attention during the sessions of the Federation, the meeting being described as "one of the best organized and most fruitful ever held by the International Miners' Federation."

It appeared to be generally agreed that, whatever criticism might be levied at the International Labor Office for its failure to prepare a code, it is the most capable agency now in existence to deal with the problem of safety in mines of all countries. This view resulted in the adoption of the following resolution:

"Having regard for the diverse practices and inadequate provisions for the health and safety of mine workers in various countries, this Congress calls on the International Labor Office to take immediate steps to achieve an improved and uniform code of health and safety regulations.

"This would safeguard the health of the miners and would lead to a paralleling number of accidents and loss of life in the mining industry of every country."

The convention held that, both as regards accidents and miners' disease, prevention is far better than cure.

Bill Forcing Use of Illinois Coal Killed by Legislature

Springfield, Ill. (AFLNS).—A special session of the Illinois Legislature, called to consider emergency measures, will not take the proposal to require all local governments in the state to use coal produced in Illinois.

Senator Harry C. Stuttle's bill was passed by the Senate before the second legislature convened in June. It would "permit" any governmental unit to buy the outside state coal if the price is 10 per cent lower than Illinois coal, but it didn't get through the lower house.

When the second special session convened, Governor Henry Horner said he would call for this session did not include consideration of the coal regulation measure.

Labor Party Is Opposed By Massachusetts Unions

New Bedford, Mass. (AFLNS).—The creation of a Labor party in Massachusetts was opposed by the annual convention of the State Federation of Labor here. The proposal was defeated by a vote of 119 to 28.

John F. Gatelee of Springfield was re-elected president of the Federation and Robert J. Watt of Lawrence was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Housing Shortage Needs 1,320,000 New Homes Annually For Ten Years

A. F. of L. Survey Holds Inability of Private Industry to Meet Crisis in Home Building Makes Government Assistance For Low-Cost Homes Necessary.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—As the result of a careful examination of the housing situation in the United States, the American Federation of Labor Monthly Survey of Business concludes that the construction of at least 1,320,000 homes annually until 1945 is imperatively necessary to provide decent homes for the workers and their families.

From an equally careful examination of the past and present achievements of the housing industry, the Survey reaches the conclusion that private industry is utterly incapable of meeting the crisis in house construction, and that therefore a broad government-plan to give financial assistance to low-cost housing projects is absolutely necessary.

Housing Shortage Facts

"We have seen that if private building is to supply the nation's homes," the Survey says, "rents and home values must be high enough, consistent with costs, to make building profitable. But if rents and home values are high, how can workers have decent homes? These are the essential points to be kept in mind as we consider the present housing problem.

"America is today faced with a very serious housing shortage, which, if not remedied within a few years, will mean that millions of Americans must live in the sordid, unhealthy surroundings which breed illness and crime.

"Looking forward to 1945, authorities make the following very conservative estimate of new homes needed: To replace houses now not fit to live in, 3¼ million; further replacement from 1936 to 1945, another 3¾ million; to provide for new families who will start homes between now and 1945, nearly 8 million; total, 13,196,000 new homes.

"To keep up with the need then, we should build 1,320,000 new homes each year from now until 1945. This would be an unprecedented volume of building, for the largest number of homes ever built by private industry in any one year was 840,000 in 1928, and the average for 1920 to 1929 was 646,000 yearly. In 1935 we built only about 300,000 new homes. Can the industry supply the nation's need?

Profit Blocks Building

"We come now to a real difficulty—the profit in home building.

"It is estimated that to build new homes, either for rent or sale, for families who have incomes under $1,500 a year in the South and West or $1,200 in the South is not profitable.

"The Commerce Department's Financial Survey of Urban Housing in 1933 showed that two-thirds of American families had incomes less than $1,500. Even if prosperity should lift workers' incomes to the 1929 level, one-third of all American families would still be out of the running as profitable customers for the housing industry.

"This means that private industry can provide only about the 1,320,000 new homes needed each year.

"Are the other 440,000 families to live in slums, or should the government help make decent homes possible for them?

"The Congress has added considered legislation to provide government assistance for low-cost housing; it must be reconsidered and made law in the next Congress."

Jobs for 5,500,000

Pointing out that in June, 1936, of the "2,300,000 workers who normally depend on the building industry for their living" only 1,000,000 had jobs, leaving 1,300,000 still unemployed, the Survey declared that "by building all the new homes America needs, we can give work in building to all who normally depend on it and also to 1,000,000 others who need work and cannot find it," adding:

"The significance to our country of such a program can hardly be overestimated. A nation can have no greater asset than a good home for every family. Give a family a good house and you have taken a first step in lifting them to a higher level of living. Make American housing be a lifting force or a downward drag on her people? Citizens decide this issue when they decide to enter the ballot.

"The picketing activities resulted from alleged violation of a voluntary five-day, 40-hour week code. There was no disorder and after the mill management announced that they would discuss complaints with committee representatives the pickets dispersed.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FINDS 9,550,000 IDLE

A. F. of L.'s Estimate of 11,000,000 Those Who Have Reached Working Age Since 1929.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Department of Commerce has announced an estimate that approximately 9,550,000 persons are out of work, which compares with about 11,250,000 estimated as jobless by the Department of Labor and the American Federation of Labor.

Last April the National Industrial Conference Board, supported by many big industries, said the number of unemployed was 9,800,000.

The Department of Commerce figures place the number of unemployed in March, 1933, at 15,100,000. While all appear to agree that the peak of unemployment was reached that month, this top figure appears about 1,000,000 shy. The Conference Board listed less than 2,000,000 as unemployed in 1929, with a steady increase to about 10,600,000 in 1932, this figure being exceptionally low.

President Green of the A. F. of L. has emphasized that his figures taken into consideration the fact that 4,846,000 persons have been added to the potential working population since 1929.

Commerce Department unemployment statistics are not kept officially, but are compiled by the Department of Labor, and, the latter are in close agreement with the unemployment statistics compiled by the A. F. of L.

HEALTH WORK IS AIDED BY 7,444 WPA NURSES

Activities Range from Care of Needy Ill to Combating Epidemics and Infantile Paralysis.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Certain squint-eyed opponents of the projects carried on by the Works Progress Administration for the relief of unemployment refer to many of the WPA activities as "boondoggling," often used to describe relatively useless work.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the Works Progress Administration is now carrying on health projects in 39 states and in the District of Columbia.

About 7,444 women are employed in this work, which includes proper attention for needy persons who are sick, carrying on immunization campaigns and combating epidemics.

Aid in maternity cases is provided in many communities, while infantile paralysis, tuberculosis and even whooping cough are among the diseases against which this relief army of health crusaders are fighting in the public interest.

An example of health protection by preventive care is cited in a Chicago project, where 184,000 individuals have been immunized against typhoid fever, 1,300 against smallpox and 26,000 children against diphtheria.

Throughout the numerous communities where health projects have been established, registered nurses are employed to provide bedside care for persons without means, in addition to many clinics for the treatment of various diseases.

28,000 MISSOURIANS NOW DRAW OLD-AGE-PENSIONS

Jefferson City, Mo. (AFLNS).—With the addition of 7,000 during the past month, Missouri now has 28,000 aged people on the pension rolls. This number is expected to rise about 1,000 a week for several weeks, with the likelihood that a total of 54,000 may be reached.

State Auditor Smith has added a night staff of 17 persons to supplement the day staff in completing the rolls of approved applicants. A retroactive clause in the state pension law was amended some time ago to enable Missouri to get dollar-for-dollar Federal assistance with the program.

Soviet Government Drafts Youth for Military Service

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has reduced the compulsory military service age limit from 21 to 19 years, thus making available for the first time, the complete youth of the Communist rule, which began in 1917.

The Soviet Government has ordered the 19-year-olds to join her huge Red army for two years of active service, then to join the reserve ranks, subject to call.

The army strength of the U. S. S. R. was reported as 1,300,000 on January 1, 1936, and it is estimated that there are about 1,000,000 soldiers in the already trained reserve.

Interstate Commerce Commission Fixes Insurance for Both Bus and Truck Lines

Compensation for Death, Injury and Property Damages Included in Broad Order.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Bus and truck lines operating in interstate commerce must carry insurance adequate to provide reasonable compensation for bodily injury or death of passengers and suitable property damages, according to a ruling issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission under the new Federal Motor Carrier Law.

The required insurance runs from a minimum of $15,000 for buses seating seven or less passengers to $50,000 for buses carrying 31 or more passengers.

For truck operators the minimum insurance is $5,000 for one person plus at least $1,000 property damage insurance.

The insurance, which will become effective November 15, was determined as to amount by Commissioners Lee, Caskie and Eastman. Commissioner Clark held that the amounts should be larger.

The commission's conclusions under the Motor Carrier Act were:

"1. Reasonable minimum amounts of insurance for bodily injury or death on such motor vehicle transporting passengers and are will be as follows: For one person, $5,000, subject to that limit per person for all persons for any one accident where the seating capacity is seven passengers or less, $15,000; eight to 12 passengers, inclusive, $20,000; 13 to 30 passengers, inclusive, $30,000; 31 and more passengers, $40,000, and 31 passengers or more, $50,000; and for property damage, $1,000.

"2. Reasonable minimum amounts of insurance on such motor vehicle transporting property shall be as follows: For death are and will be: For one person, $5,000, subject to that limit per person for all persons for any one accident where the seating capacity is seven passengers or less, $10,000; eight to 12 passengers, inclusive, $20,000; 13 to 30 passengers, inclusive, $30,000; 31 and more passengers, $40,000, and 31 passengers or more, $50,000; and for property damage, $1,000.

"3. A reasonable minimum amount of insurance to cover loss or damage to property bailed to or in bailment or consignees and coming into the possession of such carrier in connection with its transportation service is and will be: For the loss or damage to property carried on any one motor vehicle, $1,000; for loss of or damage to or aggregate of losses or damages of or to property occurring at any one time and place, $2,000."